"THE TIMES."

T.

AN EPISODE IN THE HISTORY OF ENGLISH JOURNALISM IN ITS RELATIONS TO AMERICAN JOURNALISM AND

TO THE UNITED STATES IN GENERAL.

London, November 17.

The line which "The Times" has recently taken has provoked, naturally, some American comment. Both in its correspondence and its leading ar ticles, there has been a tone not friendly to Ameri ca. The correspondence from Chili, and that which is sent from New-York by the Dalziel agency, has been, to all appearance, consciously and deliberately hostile. Whether the writer of the leading articles based on these performances is aware how strong his bias and his language are may be doubtful I will explain presently why it is doubtful; or why I think he is really not aware of his bias It will be more convenient, in the first place, to look at the facts, and to begin with Chili.

I will assume that most of them are familian to you. It may be well to assume also that every body acts from the best motives. What we have to deal with are acts. Let us assume further, that, when the Valparaiso and Santiago correspondent of their journal-I understand he is two gentlemen rolled into one, or rather one split in two-failed to get news through, it was by no fault of his own. The failure occurred at the most critical period of the Chilian struggle, and, as it happened, at the time when his colleague of "The New-York Herald" found himself able to supply his own journal and the rest of the world with long and variable dispatches. All the news we had in Europe for some time came through this American correspondent. It was published in every European journal and duly credited to "The New-York Herald." The unsuccessful Englishman has since been replaced, but it seems as if the new corre spondent has succeeded to some of the prejudices of the old one. At any rate, some prejudice or other colors his views of things Chilian, and especially of the relations between Chili and the United States, and of what has been done in Chili by American officials. Possibly therefore, while this gentleman believed himself to be discharging a public duty when he brought grave charges against Admiral Brown and against Mr. Egan, he was, all unknown to himself, smarting under the defeat which his own journal had suffered in a professional competition.

This theory might be put forward even more strongly if you remember that he publicly attacked the man who had beaten his predecessor; accusing him and other American correspondents of malevolent inventions. He did it in a way which only a man of very simple nature could have chosen. He described himself as a "serious correspondent"; a phrase which does not seem to refer to his religious convictions, but to his view of journalistic duty. In a dispatch, dated Santiago, November 9, and published Wednesday, November 11, he observes that "for want of better sources of information, the Euro pean Press was obliged to accept stories invented by Americans which were a disgrace to journalism." A little further on he calls the stories frauds upon the public. When the leading jouranal of England gave publicity to these peevish complaints it had, I dare say, forgotten its own obligations to the gentleman whom it allowed its Cown correspondent to attack in such terms. No body's memory is perfect. Homer nods, and Jove himself nods in the very workshop where he forges his thunderbolts; if he does forge them. I had rather think of him as nodding than as ungrateful. or, to use his correspondent's word, malevolen toward America or Americans.

Yet, if we turn to the editorial columns, th difficulty of assuming that Jove's state of mind is purely benevolent is not lessened; it is increased. Here again (November 2) we read of the inventions of the Anerican Press; coupled with a curious compliment to "our own correspondent" as competent, which I have no doubt he is, and dispassion ate; which he may be sometimes. The riot at Valpa raiso had just occurred, and Mr. Blaine was seeking redress for an admitted outrage on American citi-"But," says our Jupiter in his thunder ing way, "there is not the slightest reason to call in question the entire correctness of the attitude assumed by Chili." Not the slightest, you observe. Chili is entirely correct, while the American tone is "hectoring and browbeating." The American Government is "indecently hasty." The American policy is a "braggart policy." Mr. Blaine's tactics are "electioneering tactics"; his agents "assiduously disseminate inflammatory statements. He was trying to get up a "boom"; had he suc ceeded, he would have been "delighted to go all lengths against Chili." How does Jove know that Mr. Blaine would have been delighted? He has a kind of supernatural divining power, as a deity might be expected to have. Not only can be penetrate the secrets of Mr. Blaine's bosom, he can discover what these secrets would be in an imaginary condition of things; what his emotions would be if something had happened which has not happened. But it now appears "he is not going to win on the cheat," and "it only remains for him to climb down as softly and as gently as As to the United States Administration he can. in general, it has maintained toward Chili "a deliberately hostile and provocative attitude. Think what that means when alleged of a Great Power dealing with a lesser Power. Neutrality was openly set aside by the Americans in Chilian waters. The American Admiral acted as intelligence department to the Dictator." Finally, "the American people are certainly concerned to discover and punish those who have employed their ships and their influence in ways which, if not absolutely corrupt"-which this writer plainly believes them to be-" are at least extremely irregular and mischievous."

ated accusations against America and American officials gave offence in America. They were resented, and the expression of this resentment was pretty loud. We can hardly be blamed if we do not like to hear our Admirals called spies, and our Secretaries of State called braggarts and bulliesthe latter is short for hectoring and browbeating. There were replies and denials; semi-official Admiral Brown, in answer official. to the Secretary of the Navy, who rightly asked him what he had to say, gave an explicit and circumstantial contradiction to the calumnies of this Valparaiso correspondent. His denial was printed in "The Thunderer" on Saturday. On Monday the paper which had published and adopted the calumnies said, in substance, the denial was good enough for Chilians. The words are: "Admiral Brown's assurances telegraphed to Mr. Secretary Tracy, will no doubt be accepted by the Chilians, who will also do well to ignore the reports preju dicial to Chili, which are industriously dissem inated by the correspondents of New-York papers. No word of apology for its monstrous accusation : no withdrawal. If we had called an English

Admiral a spy, and when the charge proved

false had met his denial with a sneer, what

would have been said, and justly said, of us?

It is no great matter for wonder if these reiter-

Instead of an apology, we are treated to a "The Americans have taken in some what ill part the advice offered to them by those who would gladly be their good friends and ad mirers." It is the first time I ever heard that to call a man a spy was to give him advice, or to prove your friendship and admiration for him. "The American people," continues an adviser and friend and admirer, "while they have long ceased to be British colonists, are intensely colonial in their sensitiveness toward the least breath of criticism from the country of their origin." If the expressions I have quoted-and I might have quoted many more-be the "least breath of criticism," what would the greater criticism be? Such words as these would go through the hide of a rhinoceros. It may be colonial" to have a sense of self-respect, and it may also be imperial to put "a little candid monition" in a form so offensive as that which it assumes in the columns of our censor, In

which case we may be content to be colonial. "The English Nation," says Mr. Froude,

the most conscientious in the in judging the faults of its neighbors." Times." we are often told, is the best expression of England, and no doubt is conscientious. It is English in every trait. I am confident that its editor and the writers on the paper are quite unaware of giving offence. You speak of it as having been conspicuous for many years for its hostility to the United States. There was a time, of course, when that was an accurate account of the matter. I do not think it is now, or has been as a rule, lately. The defect of the Englishman is a defeat of imagination. He does not-I suppose he cannot-put himself in the place of the man from whom he differs. He lacks play of mind, to again one of Arnold's favorite phrases. He has his own point of view and no other, or seldom any other. He is, or thinks he is, himself thick skinned, and is astonished that anybody else's skin should be less thick than his own. So he goes on preaching and lecturing and railing at those not of like mind with himself, and wonders they don't like it. You will not have forgotten one shameless at-

tack on Mr. Blaine which was sent over here by Dalziel's New-York agency; one for which Mr. Curtice Bond assumed the responsibility in his character of Mr. Blaine's friend. On the morning when it was published in "The Times," I said to a person in authority, who must have read the

dispatch "Look here, X. Suppose I should cable to New-York that Lord Salisbury had a partner in the sealing business in Behring Sea, and that he was preventing a settlement and sacrificing his country to his partner, and for the sake of his own share in the plunder, what would von sav?

"What on earth do you mean?" "I mean that that is exactly what Mr. Blaine accused of in the Dalziel dispatch from New-

York in this merning's 'Times.' " He reflected a moment, and answered:

"Well, it is a shame. I never looked at it in that light before." By which I understood him to mean that long as the calumny affected Mr. Blaine only, it never struck him as a calumny; apply it to Lord

Salisbury and the infamy of the charge, and of

him who made it, became apparent at once. That is one reason among others why I say don't think that the journal which lavishes on us all these endearments means to be unfriendly. The Editor of it and the writers on it see nothing but their own side, and so convinced are they that their own side is the true one that they set forth their convictions in the most energetic language at their disposal. They are not aware how energetic it is. They are perfeetly aware how energetic yours is when you repel these criticisms, and expose the fallacies and follies on which they are founded. But if the Englishman starts in life with the belief-and all through life adheres to the belief-that whatever is English is right, mistakes must sometimes

JUVENILIA.

occur in his estimate of current affairs, and his

language will sometimes be too plain. G, W. S.

Mrs. G. was much interested in a mission Sunday school in one of our large cities, and spent an hour or two every Sunday afternoon with a class of little girls poor street waifs that had been gathered in.

Upon one occasion, when the last lesson had been bout the ten virgins, five of whom were wise and five polish, the teacher asked, as was her custom, who in the class could tell anything about the lesson of the previous Sunday. One little girl who had never been a Sunday-school in her life until the week before. was on her feet in an instant, and said: num, I ken, it was a weddin', and there was ten on And there the child stood, a touching little pic ture, with her pinched about and pover street dialect the whole story, no point of which she lost. Pathetic as it was, it was rresistably funny when she close by saying: "And them as hasn't got no oil in their lamps says to them as has to 'give 'em some,' and them as has got ofl it their lamps says to them as hasn't, 'Be off wid vez. and go to the grocery and git yer own kerosene

Tommy was sent on an errand one morning to farm lying just on the edge of the town, the ow of which was familiarly known as "Uncle Isaac." hour was rather early, and when he arrived such mem bers of the large family as could be spared without seriously interfering with the running of domestic machinery were gathered family worship. Returning home, his mother shout his errand and with the root in village soil, she asked him what was going on at the farm. He told her of the occupations of one and another, and added, "and Uncle Isaac, he was in the settin'-room a prayerin' on't just as tight as he could prayer."

Susy lived on a farm, and the nearest neighbor was perhaps a quarter of a mile distant. One day she went own to Mrs. S.'s, and, child-like, walked backward all the way. Greatly elated over the difficult feat, she ushed into the house exclaiming, "Oh, Mrs. S.! 1 walked down here all the way wrong side out!"

In the opinion of five-year-old Grace, only a married roman with a family and the cares of a house on her hands could be called "a lady." She was talking to her aunt-a young lady-one day about a certain friend o who came up to Grace's standard of ladyhood. "And what do you think of me?" asked her aunt. Without the least intention of being impolite, but with very decided ideas of her own, nevertheless, Grace replied: "Humph! you're not a lady; you're othing but an old girl!"

Eddy lived with his grandfather, and was accus omed to hear a blessing asked at each meal. Onday the hungry little boy was very impatient for his dinner, and as his grandfather was detained for a moment from taking his seat at the table, the little fellow felt that the duty of the blessing fell upon him; so he bowed his head low over his plate and said the little prayer he always repeated at night. grandfather entered the room just as he had finished, and Eddy, fearing a still further delay in serving the neal, shouted: "Oh, Grandpa! You needn't 'Oh Lord,' for I have."

L- had been trotting her little feet off wniting upon the elder members of the family, as little children At last, weary from slipping down from he chair so often, and out of patience at the demands made upon her, she exclaimed: "Well, I guess I get tired as anybody, if 'tis only a small tired!"

Willie is devoted to his father, and is never happie than when lavishing upon him his baby kisses. He finds the mustache a serious obstacle, however, and trying to kiss his papa one day he said: "Oh papa, your fedders bodder me so!"

Four-year-old Rosamond was looking at a photograph which was just received of an old lady, a great aunt, whom she had never seen. "How old is she Mamma ?" she asked. "I don't know," her mother replied. "Well, was she new when God made her?"

An old man, commonly spoken of throughout the village as "Old Mr. H-," was very ill. Miss W- called upon the nearest neighbor of the H-'s, and while waiting for her friends to appear entertained herself talking to ber friend's bright little daughter. Thinking the child might have heard something concerning the sick man's condition, she inquired: you know how old Mr. H- is to-day !" but the information was not very satisfactory when little Ruby demurely replied, "No, me don't know how old be am."

Jennie, three years old, was not fond of crusts, and would siyly tuck them out of sight under the rim of her plate. Her mother discovered the trick one day, and pleking out the discarded pieces told the little girl she must eat them before she could have any more. Suddenly spreading her chubby little h over her equally plump little stomach, swaying back expression of suffering on her face, she looked up and exclaimed: "Oh, Mamma, my back aches.

Dot went with her mother to church one Sun day and was as demure as possible. She listened with absorbing interest while the minister read through the hymn beginning "As pants the hart for cooling streams," when she whispered to her mother, "Why, Mamma, there are two pair of pants in that hymn."

SLIGHTLY MIXED, BUT EXPRESSIVE. From The Boston Globe.

We must content ourselves to-day with anecdote of foreigners trying to express their thoughts in English. The latest is told by Dean Briggs of Harvard. A Japanese student, destring to impress on the dean how studious he had been, said: "I have worked so hard I eat nothing since to-morrow."

IN AFRICANDER LAND.

COMPLICATIONS WITH WHICH PREMIER CECIL RHODES HAS TO WRESTLE.

Capetown, October 25.
Politics in South Africa are notoriously complicated. Faction has arisen against faction, and country against country, until the outlook is anything but promising. The matter of most recent date that is agitating the public mind in these regions concerns a revision of the Colonial franchise. The question is whether South Africa shall be ruled entirely by the whites, or whether the natives whose territories are being rapidly absorbed by the Colony shall have any franchise power. In case of party dissolution in the future on the lines of color, another serious complication will arise aside from that which already exists among the Africanders whose opinions differ on the trek business. How keen the struggle may become it is impossible to say, but an opposition that would make the franchise the important consideration would prove disastrous to both political parties. Dissension in the ranks is becoming prevalent, and a spirit of personal vengeance will be the result.

Cecil Rhodes, Prime Minister of the Cape, aroused the animosities of neighboring countries by his measures against the Free Trekkers. He was determined that no new independent colonies should be established. It is his intention to open up the country as far as the Zambesi, which he thinks is the boundary of the region where the white man can live, and to bring the whole territory under the rule of one government, whose capital shall be Capetown. He advocates unity of government, but forgets that the existing independent States do not wish to belong to his unit. His opponents claim that Mr. Rhodes and the Chartered Company are determined to establish an empire of their own in South Africa. England does not favor the annexation of the whole territory of South Africa not occupied by independent States to the Cape Colony. She sees a possible usurpation of her own supremacy in those regions, so prefers to control the new settlements herself. Cape Colony has made every effort to keep the trade interest in her own region. Mr. Rhodes is pushing a railway through the settlement to the Zambesi, which will help to promote union among the colonies, but will not result in all the advantages that the Cape Colo nists anticipated. On the other hand Zambesi will want a government of her own as soon as her trade and population warrant her in taking measures to procure her own independence. Cape Colony is too far away to expect to regulate for any great length of time a colony whose interests are entirely foreign to her own. She has not yet learned that she cannot domineer over a country capable of self-government.

Mr. Rhodes occupies two seemingly incompatible ositions, as head of the British South Africa Company depending upon the capital and aid of the British Government, and as Prime Minister of the Cape depending upon Africander votes. He endeavors to gain the favor of Imperialists " at home' and of the most urgent advocates of local independence. He advocates Imperialism on the one hand and "Africa for the Africanders" on the other. He even ignores the policy of the Africander Bond in pushing some of his measures, not withstanding that his strongest support comes from this association.

Mr. Rhodes's plans for allotting the farms of the territory proclaimed to be within the sphere of British influence and in the possession of the company were laid before the Africander Bond at the meeting last April. He thinks that the farms should be given out, subject to a reasonable quitrent, to those applicants deemed most suitable to earry on the farming in a new country. While there will be no objection when opportunity offers for the admission of farmers from Transvaal, Free State, and other South African communities, still in the final settlement of the country-with the consent of the High Commissioner-no undue preference will be shown to them over Her Majesty's subjects from Cape Colony of leswhere. Every intending farmer will be re quired to sign a declaration that on entering the territory he will respect the flag and be under the Chartered Company's laws, which will be based in principle on those of Cape Colony with the right of appeal from the local courts to the Supreme Court in Capetown,

The trek organized in Transvaal with the inon of taking posses tory and establishing a Republican government has all along received the approbation and encourage ment of the South African Republicans. They be lieve that the success of the Trekkers' enterprise insures protection against the growth of Imperial ism, which they have learned to dread. They claim that Mr. Rhodes desires to gain a name in history at their expense, and that his sentiment is to create an English Empire in South Africa. This they will not tolerate, and they resent his attack upon the republics.

That the desired territory is subject to the British Crown is a statement that the natives themselves claim is untrue In a proclamation nade in August, 1890, they declare that Sebasha and Niozobe are the paramount chiefs, captains. kings and rulers of the nation, and that the Majaiers are the only lawful and peace-loving inhabitants and possessors of the land and terri tory adjoining on the south the Limpope, on the east and northeast the Ummezela nation? and to the west the territory of the Matabele people And further in the course of the proclamation they declare: "It is with the greatest pain and regret that it has come to our notice that an expedition or campaign against our land and people is being made to come through Matabeland and ours, to rob our people of their rights and liberties and arbitrarily and unlawfully take possession of our country. We protest in the name of humanity and justice against such an unjust and cruel deed, and we call upon all peoples of the earth to protest against this unlawful action, and to request the mighty Queen of Great Britain, the great Empress of India and Ireland, to prevent her subjects from coming into our country under the Rhodes and Garsion expedition, disturbing our peace and robbing us of our independence." they proclaim that they will retain and defend their country and their rights with the last drop of their blood. They ask for the assistance of the burghers of South Africa in averting the raids of the troublesome neighboring tribes who have made repeated efforts to conquer the peace-loving Mojaiers. The protest and proc lamation which was signed by the great chief Sebasha and Mozabe, and by eighteen councillors.

ers, to be placed before the Powers of Europe, ask ing for intervention for their rights. But here the complications became deeper Portugal steps to the front and claims that she has undoubted right in this territory, by former conquest, and that at the time of the granting of the Adendorff concession the Mashonas were not an independent nation. If Portugal's claim holds good, then the concession is not worth the paper it is written on.

was placed in the hands of a committee of burgh

The President of the Transvaal Government ssued a proclamation in April, forbidding any burgher in his government to take part in th trek with the intention of going to the territories to form an independent government. But in spite of the governments and the proclamations. the trekkers from all parts of South Africa are making attempts to form settlements in the pionee

to keep up the "Taal" language in South Africa. The Africanders have distinct national charac teristics of their own, the outgrowth of a combination of European nationalities. The official language of the majority of the countries is Dutch. although English is widely used in the provinces as the popular language. Professor Mansvelt advocates measures to prevent the native from being absorbed by a mass of foreigners.

like that of the United States. The legislative powers are vested in the Volksraad, the members of which are elected for a term of four years. The whole number of representatives is fiftythree-one representing each town or district, and one each ward or field cornetcy. The President's term of office is for five years, and he is eligible for re-election. The tecure of office in other official departments is in no way affected by a change in the Executive Office. The military heads of the several districts, the field cornets of the different contingents, elect a commandant-general from among their own number, who takes supreme command of the whole army, receiving his instructions from the President. All residents be: tween the ages of sixteen and sixty are liable to mmando duty, unless legally exempted but unless it is absolutely necessary, none under eighteen years of age are pressed into service Burghership in the State can only be the right of the whites who were born in the State, but may be conferred upon those who have resided in the State for one year and have fixed property to the amount of £150, and upon whites who have resided in the State for three successive years.

PENSIONS FOR LABORERS.

HOW THE STATE SYSTEM IN GERMANY IS WORKING.

Berlin, November 12. The German State Insurance law, as it is called, as now been in force ten months. It is really not an insurance system at all, but an old-age annuity system; and being universal and compulsory is one of the most extraordinary specimens of mingled paternalism and socialism that any existing Government can show. Throughout the Empire its working has been watched with close interest, and the popular verdict seems at present to be almost unanimously in its favor. In other countries, too; notably in England, it is closely studied with a view to its possible adoption with, of course, such modifications as the different circumstances and the public spirit might require. Statistics of its operation in all the States of the Empire are no vet accessible, but enough is positively known to vindicate fully the wisdom of th

The Grand Duchy of Baden has been somewhat

ahead of the rest of Germany in taking advantage of the law, and in systematically reporting upon its working. There has been published at Carlsruhe detailed statement of the work done by the Annuity Department during the first six months of the law, from January 1 to June 30 of the present year. Perhaps these statistics make a rather more favorable showing than those of almost any other State would: because in Baden there was the most complete preparation for the law, both in machin ery for executing it and in instruction of the people regarding it. However this may be, in Baden the system is a great success. The number of persons applying for annuities in the six months were as follows: January, 488; February, 911; March, 563; April, 371; May, 174, and June 170-a total of 2,677. In the e me months the number of annuities granted were: January, 330; Feb ruary, 585; March, 321; April, 283; May, 232, and June 254-a total of 2,005. Of course, they will not keep on at anything like such a rate. The total population of Baden is less than 2,000,000. It has this year had to grant annuities to all eligible applicants of seventy years old and upward; but henceforth it will only be called on to grant them to new applicants as fast as they reach that age. As the State only pays fifty marks a year to each pensioner, the cost of these 2,005 annuities is only 100,250 marks a year. The balance of the pensions, 154,397 marks, comes from the pension fund, which is contributed, onehalf by holders of the policies and one-half by their

For the purpose of this system the working opulation is divided into four classes. In the first are all who earn less than 350 marks a year each. They are required to pay into the pension fund seven pfennig a week, and receive, after their seventieth year, an annuity of 106 marks, 80 pfennig each. The second class comprises those who earn from 350 to 550 marks year. They pay 10 pfennig a week, and reeive an annuity of 135 marks. The third class omprises those whose earnings range from 556 receive 163 marks, 20 pfennig a year. And the 00 marks a year. They nay 15 nfennio week, and get an annuity of 191 marks 40 pfennig. Persons earning more than 2,000 marks a year do not come under the operation of the law. It s reckoned that they ought to be able to save ough to take care of themselves in old age. Moreover, each applicant must prove that he arns at least one-third of the average of wages in his district. Persons incapable of earning so much are objects of charity, and this annuity system is not in any sense a charity. Each applicant, too, must have been, before receiving his annuity, a contributor to the fund for at least thirty years; though that provision does not, of course, apply to those who are now seventy years All persons who were more than forty years old when the law went into effect are allowed to subtract from the thirty years required, the number by which their ages at that time exceeded forty. Thus a man who on January 1 was seventy years old, could get his annuity at once; one who was sixty can get it in ten years; one who was fifty can get it in twenty; and one who was forty can get it in

These annuities are small. They range, a stated, from about \$26 to about \$48 a year. Even the latter sum seems a beggarly pittance. It is to be remembered, however, that the annuities are intended to aid in procuring only the bare necessaries of life, which are much less costly in Germany than in America. And they are paid, moreover, to all who reach the age of seventy, no matter what their condition. It is to be supposed that a considerable proportion of those receiving them will be able also to go on earning wages for some years to come, so that the annuity will not be by any means their sole support. And, of course, many more will have saved something beside, or will have relatives who will contribute to their support. As to the cost of the system to the Government, it is claimed that it is an actual saving of money The Government pays between \$12 and \$15 a The Government pays between \$12 and \$15 a year to each pensioner. By this means it prevents any of the classes affected from becoming paupers. To maintain a pauper costs about four times as much as is paid to each pensioner. Therefore, if without the annuities one-fourth of the people now aided by them would become paupers, it actually pays, in dollars and cents, to grant the pensions. But would one-fourth become paupers? That would surely be a startlingly large proportion. One can only say that of late years the number of paupers in nearly all European countries has been increasing at a terrible pace. The number of almshouses and kindred institutions is legion. And until the American Government began to take vigorous means to prevent it, there was a vast army of "assisted" pauper emigrants sent to the United States every year. Indeed, it is interesting to observe that the origin of this annuity scheme coincides in date pretty closely with the closing of America's doors against beggars from over the sea.

This system, as already stated, is compulsory. No German workman is allowed to choose whether or not he will take advantage of it. As soon as he is sixteen years old, whether he wills to do so or not, he is compelled to pay his weekly quota to the pension fund. His employer, likewise, is compelled to pay an equal sum for him. Thus, when he reaches the age of seventy years he enters into the enjoyment of his pension with no lose of independence or self-respect. He does not receive it as a gratuity, but as the legitimate result of his own savings, albeit the saving was enforced upon him. Thus the system is, in one view, a piece of arbitrary Government tyranny, and in another, it is practical socialism. And so, while it is not generally known that the late Count von Wika one thought sedously of enters the count von Wika one thought sedously of enters the count von the will to do the pension with the people perhaps most popular, wherever, as in Baden, democratic and socialistic ideas are most advanced. year to each pensioner. By this means it pre

The last census taken in the Orange River Free State, shows a population of 207.503, about one-third of the number being whites, an increase of 16,000 in the white population since 1880. The form of government is more like that of France than

AN ANTISEPTIC DUEL.

FEATURES OF THE FINANCIAL DISTRESS IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Buenos Ayres, October 10.

The "code of honor" has here reached the c elimax of absurdity in the taking of elaborate precautions against the possibility of either of the combatants getting hurt. Perhaps this was in part a concession to the law; though why any one should deem it needful to make any concessions to the law in such a country as this is "one of those things that no fellow can find out." that were the object, however, it was certainly successful, from a logical if not from a legal point of view. The law forbids mortal combats But if the combat be so arranged that no danger to life or health can possibly occur, it is not mortal, and therefore does not come under the prehibition.

Well, at any rate, this was the drama: Senor

Espinosa and Senor Larsen del Castano, members of the Lower House ol Congress, were opponents in debate. Leaving the Chamber, they renewed the discussion with much animation in the lobby. Then they accented their words with blows of the fist, planted on each other's face. Following these came some fine single-stick play with their heavy canes; and at last they pulled out their pistols. Here friends interfered and parted them. It would not do to have the whole matter fought out there in a moment. The comedy must be prolonged for the enjoyment of the spectators. So a duel was arranged. Should a couple of peons, or ordinary folk of any kind, do such a thing, they would be clapped into prison in a hurry. But here were two Members of Congress, one of them also a Judge, and the other an Army officer, challeng ing each other in the very precincts of the Capitol and numerous other Deputies, Senators, Judges, etc., assisting in the arrangements, the whole being announced as public as a church festival or a new issue of depreciated currency; and never a thought of any one interfering. The idea is that "who makes may break"-the law or anything else. The announcements were most ter-It was to be a duel to the death. No mere rible. wounds would do.

Well, the place selected was Senor B. Victorica's farm, at Moron, and thither went the combatants, their seconds, some doctors and surgeons, and a select throng of spectators-mostly high Government officials. First, they sat down to breakfast After that, they would fight. But while they were still at table, up comes a fool of a policeman, who either has not been properly "seen," or who is too stupid to understand anything.

"I am looking for a couple of Deputies, Senors, he says.

"What do you want of them?" Senor Victorica asks; "have they been robbing anybody, that you should arrest them?"

"Oh, for that," replies the policeman, with fine flash of genius, "all the Deputies rob everybody. No, it isn't stealing. That's no crime. But I'm told they are to fight a duel, and I'm going to stop it." "Quite right, too," says Senor Victorica. "I

know about that duel, but it doesn't come off here, It's at Senor Lelovi's farm, a mile down the road. Here, I'll send one of my men down to show you the place. So off went the policeman. Senor Victorica's

man tipped the wink to Senor Lelovi, and the latter cold the policeman that the duel wts indeed to occur there, but not for two or three hours yet. Where fore, he would best have some breakfast, and make himself at home until the bloodthirsty wretches arrived. The officer fell into the trap, and in the meantime, the duel came off, all undisturbed; at Senor Victorica's. It was agreed that one of the men should scratch the other with the point of his foil; possibly draw a drop of blood. That would do no harm unless blood-poisoning followed. Well, that could be prevented. So the combatants each took a bath, and sponged himself all over with an antiseptic preparation. And then the foils were carefully rendered aseptic also " Now, gentleman," said the doctor, as he took the foils from the bath of carbolic acid? " you may scratch each other with perfect safety!"

Four rounds were fought. In the first, Senor Espinosa got a scratch on the little finger of his right hand, not deep enough to draw blood. In the second, Senor Larsen was wounded in the leg to 850 marks. They pay 12 pfennig a week and that is, the foil tore his trousers, but the skin remained intact. In the third, no casualty occurred fourth class includes those who earn from 850 In the fourth, Senor Larsen got a scratch on one Espinosa received a puncture as great as the sting of a wasp in his right arm. There the battle ended. Antiseptics and healing compounds were liberally applied to the ghastly wounds, honor was declared to be well satisfied, and the two adversaries fell upon each other's necks, crying, "Henceforward we are brothers!"

An enormous transaction in real estate is said to be on the point of consummation. The agents of Baron Hirsch, the great Jewish philanthropist. have for some time been looking about the country for an eligible site for founding a Jewish colony. They have finally selected some thousand or more square leagues of land belonging to the National Government in Chaco, and have made for it an offer of \$1,000 in gold per square league. That the Government will accept the offer there can be little doubt. The sum of \$1,000,000 in ready cash, and in gold at that, will be a perfect godeend to the bankrupt treasury. Nor will it be a bad bargain on the other side The land is well worth the price, being well watered and highly fertile. There are no forests to clear off, but the fields are ready for the plough. Every year many farmers realize in net profits from their wheat fields more than the entire first cost of the land.

Despite the abundance of grain, however, there is an actual famine in this city, due chiefly to the octroi. A heavy tax is levied on all grain and fodder brought into the city. The most evident result is starvation in the stables. The horses attached to street cars and public coaches are in a most deplorable condition. For week they have lived on half-rations, and now are in various stages of decline. It is not at all un common to see them fall down in the streets through sheer weakness caused by lack of food. When hitched in pairs they lean against each other for mutual support, and when hitched singly it is often evident that they are held creet only by being well strapped to the shaits of the vehicle.

Next year, it is announced, there will be still further increase of municipal taxes. The municipal debt, funded, amounts to nearly \$55. 000,000, and the floating debt to nearly \$15. 000,000 more. The interest charges are more than \$3,300,000 a year, or fully one-third of the whole revenue. The tax system on real estate, to go in force next year, is described as arbitrary, inequitable, disproportionate, uncertain, oppressive, and costly; all of which it probably is. It provides for taxation of so much per square metre, according to the situation, and according to the height of the building on it. In the bulk of the city the rate is from fifteen cents per metre for one-story buildings. eighteen to twenty-eight for two-storied buildings, and twenty-five to thirty-five for three-storied or higher. Lots not built upon are taxed from one to five cents per metre. All these taxes are to be doubled when the

property is occupied, wholly or in part, by banks, incorporated companies, theatres, ball-alleys, sport houses, marine stores, "corralones" of timber or iron, exchange offices, import or export houses, hotels, furnished houses, restaurants, cafes, bathing houses, livery stables and coach-houses, liquor factories, breweries, gas factories, tramway stations, telephone offices, clubs and societies of recreation, "conventillos" and lodging houses with more than fifteen rooms, and passages with more than five offices. Then there is to be a tax bowling alley, and on every ticket sold for sporting exhibitions or contests of any kind. On every marriage a tax of \$10 is imposed. Other important objects of taxation and sources of revenue are the visits of physicians to their patients, the

carriage of corpses through the streets emetery, and the sale of graves

Meanwhile the city is almost encared for The Intendant publicly admits that the streets are in a bad state, so far as cleaning and repairing go. In order that their condition may be visible as little as possible, however, he has greatly reduced the number of lamps used for lighting them at night, so that now much of the city is in utter darkness ofter sundown. Up to June 12 last more than 9,000 gas lamps were used Now there are about 7,600. There are also some thousands of oil lamps, which only aid in making the general darkness visible.

Actual distress among the people is great. One of the newspapers says: "Our office is daily crowded with countrymen in various stages of distress. Most of them belong to the working classes, many have seen better days, and a few are men of superior education. Some are indigent, some houseless and homeless, some passed twenty-four hours without food. Hunger and want are pictured in their faces, and yet those poor fellows say that nothing is done for them They are left to die in the streets, like the man who was found dead of hunger on Passe June last Monday morning."

The Austrian vice-consul here committed suicide a few days ago, for reasons unknown save himself. Among the letters left in his room was a sealed one, upon which he had written follows: "This letter must be put in my grave unopened, because it contains only private con My curse on those who dare to respondence. open it! I ask Senor A. Gelpi to fulfil this my last wish .- Buenos Aires, September 28, 1891. The Court of Criminal Appeal permitted this direction to be fulfilled.

A curious bit of judicial carelessness has ju

come to light, showing the slovenly way in which even the most important matters are administered in this country. In February, 1888, June Chamoux was accused of the murder of Angel Scalioti, in Bahia Blanca. The judge, Dr. Varia found him guilty and sentenced him to eight years penal servitude, the Fiscal Agent having askel that the imprisonment might be for an indefinite period. The advocate of the accused appealed to the superior court for the punishment to be reduced to 4 1-2 years' imprisonment on the ground of extenuating circumstances, probably the length of time, 3 1-2 years, occupied by the process. Strange to say, none of these learned gentlemen took the trouble to inquire whether Scalioti had really been killed, and is turns out that though, he was seriously wounded and admitted into the Bahia Blanca happing on February 20, 1888, he left it, perfectly cured, on March 15 following.

HE DID NOT LIKE THAT TEST.

HOW AN OPTICIAN UNWITTINGLY INSULTED IN CUSTOMER.

An old man dressed poorly but cleanly entered the store of an optician in Forty-second st. the other day store of an optician in rock, and the boxes of special stared about in a vacant way at the boxes of special stared about in a vacant the magnifying lenses tacles, the opera-glasses and the magnifying He was particularly well fitted for taking in a good deal at one glance, for one eye had an outward cost to it that swept the horizon due east, while the other was looking due north. "What can I do for you?" asked the optician

"My eyes are acting contrary," was the reply, the customer fixed the shopkeeper with one optic, and with the other followed a nurse-maid who wheeling a baby past the window

"I should think they were," said the optician. "You want a pair of glasses, I suppose 1" Yes, I do, if you can give me a pair that will make both my eyes see the same thing at once."

"I could give you such a pair," was the answer, "but I don't think they would help you any, on the whole The lenses would have to be of such a nature as to draw the focus of your straight eye half way around to the of your crooked one, which in turn would be forced over to meet the former. This would so strain your eyes that you would not see any better than you do now with the straight one alone."
"Well, if you can't fit me," said the visitor, "I'll

to some one who knows more."

This irritated the optician a little, and, seeing that he had a cranky customer on hand, he quickly set up his card with letters and figures of various sizes on it, and asked the man if he could read the top line.

"Yes, I see it," said the customer. "Read it out loud, please," said the optician.

"I tell you I see it all right." Perhaps you only think you do. Read it aloud,

"Do you think I don't know what I know !"

ant you to read it aloud. "I won't do it."

'Then I can't fit your eyes." "Then I'll go somewhere else; (rising) I didn't comb here to be insulted."

"My dear sir, I didn't insult you."

"You did, sir."

You tried to make a fool of me."

"How!"

"By askin' me again and again to read that sign."

"I don't understand."

"I can't read, you idiot," and the victim flung himself out of the shop while the optician collapsed.

AN ENLIGHTENED WOMAN.

From Notes and Ouerles. In St. George's burial ground, in the Uxbridge Road,

In St. George's burial ground, in the Uxbrage hows is a monument erected to the memory of Hoporetia Pratt, who ordered that her body should be burned it stands near the back of the chapel. On it are four columns supporting a canopy, under which is an unwith snakes twined around it. The inscription on the southern face has nearly all perished. As it is reads:

reads:
... Honoretta Pratt
... ourable John Pratt
... treauser of Ireland
and a few disconnected words. The northern side has

and a few disconnected words. The northern side as the following:

"This worthy woman, believing that the vapour arising from graves in the church yards of populoes citys must prove hurtful to the inhabitants, and resolving to extend to future times as far as she was able that charity and benevolence which distinguished her thro life, ordered that her body should be burn in hope that others would follow the example. I thing too hastily censured by those who did not inquire the motive."

The stone is so weather-worn that it is impossible to tell whether the vacant space below the above contained anything or not. It may have recorded the fact that her order was or was not carried out. The date 1709 probably refers to her birth, as the grave yard came into use only in or about 1764.

CURE FOR SEASICKNESS.

From The Spectator.

A correspondent of "The St. James's Gasette" of Thursday says that the drinking of salt-water is a perfect cure for seasickness, though it makes the drinker very miserable for a few minutes after he takes the cure. The sailor who recommended it to the sufferer in question accounted for it by saying the stomach on board ship is in a very sensitive state, and that the sail-water pickles it, so that it gals hardened to conditions which had previously revolted it. If that were the explanation, it must be a very rapid and micropius kind of nickling americas that is From The Spectator. hardened to conditions which had previously
it. If that were the explanation, it must be a very
rapid and miraculous kind of pickling process that is
effected by a pint of sail-water, not, in all probability,
long retained. But whatever the rationale of the
supposed "sailor's remedy" may be, any quick remedy
for so frightful a distress is worth trying; and the asset
tion of the sailors is said to be that it never falls.

SPECTACLES FOR HORSES.

From The Optician.

A well-known firm of opticians in London may facture specially constructed speciacles to be seen by horses. The object is to promote high stepping thorse speciacles, we learn, are made of stiff leaker, quiet inclosing the eyes of the horse, and the giaset employed are deep ,concave and large in size. The effect is to give the ground in front of the horse the appearance of being raised; the animal therefore, significant the state of the From The Optician.

REALLY QUITE MERCIFUL

From The Syracuse Journal.

It was in the New-York Central depot. A well-dressed lady with her Little Lord Fauntieroy son approached the door leading to an outgoing train. Both were laden with buildles. A railroad official stood by the door.

Open the door or I'll punch your head, exclaimed Fauntieroy in a very swagger role, and the official, amused by the six-persoid's audacity, consented to become doorkeeper for the occasion and compiled.

The mother showed that she was approximate a west.